

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 EB-11 IO-12 RSR-01

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R 041905 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9626

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1682

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, DA, BE

SUBJECT: DANISH DEFENSE PROPOSAL; BELGIAN CONSCRIPT SERVICE

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM PECK (UK),
HJORTH- NIELSEN (DENMARK) ASSURED DPC ON 4 APRIL THAT IN
IMPLEMENTING THE DANISH DEFENSE BILL (RESTRUCTURING),
WHICH IS EXPECTED TO HAVE ITS THIRD AND FINAL READING
SHORTLY, DANISH AUTHORITIES WOULD KEEP IN MIND THE
RECOMMENDATIONS BY NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR
COMPENSATORY MEASURES AND WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH
AFNORTH; DETAILS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN DANISH REPLY
TO NATO DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE (DPQ(73)). ALSO
IN REPLY TO QUESTION FROM PECK, DE STAERCCKE (BELGIUM)
REITERATED BELGIAN INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH NATO BEFORE
TAKING ANY FINAL DECISION ON REDUCTION OF TERM OF
CONSCRIPT SERVICE. DE STAERCCKE ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT
YET CLEAR WHEN BELGIUM WOULD PRESENT PROPOSAL, EITHER
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THIS YEAR OR NEXT YEAR, BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT IT WOULD
BE SUBMITTED IN BELGIAN RESPONSE TO DPQ(73), FOR FULL

CONSULTATION DURING THE DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW. END SUMMARY.

1. AT END 4 APRIL MORNING SESSION OF NAC, WHICH WAS ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO MEASURES TO COMBAT TERRORISM (SEPTTEL), COUNCIL RECONVENED IMMEDIATELY AS DPC AT REQUEST OF PECK, UK, TO TAKE UP STATUS OF DANISH ACTION ON DANISH DEFENSE PROPOSAL AND OF BELGIAN ACTION ON CHANGE IN CONSCRIPT SERVICE.

2. ON DANISH QUESTION, LUNS REFERRED TO HIS LETTER TO OLESEN (PO/73/40) AND OLESEN' S REPLY (USNATO 1616), WHICH LUNS CHARACTERIZED AS INTERIM. HJORTH- NIELSEN (DENMARK) REPORTED THAT PARLIAMENT HAD HELD ITS SECOND READING OF THE BILL ON 30 MARCH AND THE THIRD READING WAS EXPECTED SHORTLY, AFTER WHICH HE ANTICIPATED HE WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE DPC OF THE FINAL ACTION TAKEN.

3. ON BELGIAN QUESTION, DE STAERCKE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, 1 MARCH), WHICH PECK QUOTED, COULD GIVE RISE TO QUERY IN DPC, SINCE MINISTER VAN DEN BOEYNANTS HAD ANNOUNCED ON 17 NOVEMBER 1972 THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR REDUCTION IN LENGTH OF CONSCRIPT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH NATO. DE STAERCKE THEN STATED THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN ON WHEN THE PROPOSAL MIGHT BE SUBMITTED TO NATO, BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE BELGIAN REPLY TO DPQ (1972) MIGHT CONTAIN THE PROPOSAL FOR REDUCTION IN CONSCRIPT SERVICE, WHICH WOULD THEN BE SUBJECT TO FULL CONSULTATION IN THE 1973 ANNUAL DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW PROCESS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT BELGIUM WOULD NORMALLY ENVISAGE COMPENSATORY MEASURES IN EVENT CONSCRIPTION TIME IS TO BE REDUCED, BUT IF DENMARK TAKES NO COMPENSATORY MEASURES IN CONNECTION WITH ITS RESTRUCTURING, THERE WAS A DANGER THAT BELGIUM MIGHT DO LIKEWISE SINCE PUBLIC OPINION IN BELGIUM WOULD THEN NOT SEE NEED FOR COMPENSATORY MEASURES IN BELGIUM.

4. AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD THEN RECALLED EARLIER DANISH STATEMENT THAT BILL WAS IN GENERAL TERMS, WITH DETAILS TO BE HANDLED BY THE GOVERNMENT ONCE BILL IS PASSED, AND ASKED WHETHER IT WAS DANISH INTENTION TO INFORM NATO OF THE DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRUCTURING AND TO PUT INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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EFFECT THE COMPENSATORY MEASURES RECOMMENDED BY THE SACEUR AND THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE. HJORTH- NIELSEN INDICATED THAT IN THE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTATION THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE IN MIND THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR COMPENSATORY MEASURES AND WILL WORK WITH AFNORTH IN DRAWING UP IMPLEMENTATION; DETAILS WOULD BE SUBMITTED IN DANISH REPLY TO DPQ(73).

5. MENZIES SUGGESTED THAT MINISTER OLESEN GIVE THIS

ASSURANCE PUBLICLY IN THE PRESENTATION OF THE DEFENSE
BILL FOR ITS THIRD READING. HJORTH- NIELSEN SAW LITTLE
LIKELIHOOD OF THIS, SINCE IT WOULD BE SEEN AS MIXING
LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. LUNS ENDED SESSION WITH EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT MINISTER
OLESEN WOULD INCLUDE THIS ASSURANCE IN A LETTER INFORMING
THE DPC OF THE FINAL ACTION ON THE BILL; IN LUNS' VIEW
LETTER NEED NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO01682
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730458/abqcdygu.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH DEFENSE PROPOSAL; BELGIAN CONSCRIPT SERVICE
TAGS: MCAP, NATO, DA, BE
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO COPENHAGEN
LONDON
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
BRUSSELS

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005